

REMARKS

Claims 2-5 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2-4 are amended and claim 1 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein. Support for the amendments to claims 2-4 can be found in claims 1-4 as originally filed, and in the specification as originally filed. No new matter is added by these amendments.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claim 5 contains allowable subject matter and that claim 3 contains subject matter that would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim.


The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent 5,217,701 to Sakata et al., in view of U.S. Patent 4,489,132 to Shimoyama. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As admitted by the Office Action, none of the cited references, individually or in combination, teach or suggest all of the features of claim 3. Claim 3 has been amended into independent form and claims 2 and 4 have been amended to depend on allowable claim 3. Therefore, the §103 rejection should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 2-5 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 30, 2004

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